

KIM JONG IL

**THE ANTI-JAPANESE
WAR HEROINE
KIM JONG SUK WILL LIVE
FOR EVER IN THE HEARTS
OF OUR PEOPLE**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Talk to Officials While Giving Field Guidance
to Work Relating to the Revolutionary Relics
in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province
February 24, Juche 98 (2009)

Hoeryong is a sacred and historic revolutionary place, where the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk was born and spent her childhood.

Today, I have managed to find the time to visit the bronze statue of my mother, her birthplace and the revolutionary museum.

Gazing at her bronze statue in Hoeryong, my yearning for her grows stronger. My mother passed away too early. Her life, though short, was truly worthwhile. Before being a mother to a family, she was a loyal soldier of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and his closest comrade, a daughter of our country and people. She embarked on the road of revolution in her early years and, to the last moment of her life, devoted herself heart and soul to the leader, the country and the people. There has been no such a great mother in the world as mine, who devoted her entire life to her leader, country and people. Hers was a life of loyalty to the leader, of struggle for the revolution and of devotion to the people's well-being. Indeed, it was the life of a great revolutionary and great mother, the brilliant life of a bodyguard who was unfailingly faithful to the leader. Since her life was so brilliant and worthwhile, our people still recollect her with deep yearning. For the imperishable exploits she performed for the good of her country and people, for the times and history, my mother will live for ever in the hearts of our people.

The bronze statue of my mother in Hoeryong originally depicted her in the traditional Korean *chima* and *jogori* dress. The leader said that a military uniform would be better suited to her revolutionary career, so the statue was re-sculpted as he instructed.

Even now the statue looks immaculate. At the time of its re-sculpting I focused all my energies on it. The statue in Hoeryong looks the best of all the bronze statues of my mother erected in different parts of the country. It looks even better than the one at Kim Jong Suk Naval University.

The bronze statue in Hoeryong is in an excellent location and it is appropriate in all respects. The city is keeping the statue in a good state of maintenance.

I agree to your proposal that I pose for a photograph in front of the statue. Let us all pose for one after that. Judging by your smiles, I think you must have been looking forward to my coming to Hoeryong to pose for the camera in front of the bronze statue of my mother today.

You, the director of the Museum of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's Revolutionary Activities, say that you were born in Unsan County, South Phyongan Province, graduated from Chongjin O Jung Hup University of Education No. 1 and took a postgraduate course at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. That is good. You say that you will work harder with pride in living in Hoeryong, the birthplace of my mother. I am confident that you will do so.

The officials in Hoeryong have thanked me for visiting the city on such a cold day and guiding its overall work. In the future you should work harder and repay the Party for its trust in you.

It is important for Hoeryong to look after the bronze statue of my mother with utmost care and conduct effective education by means of it.

At my mother's birthplace, I feel my heart overflowing with deep emotion. I had the urge to visit Hoeryong whenever I was missing my mother, but I could not find the time to do so because of my heavy workload. In the 1970s, when guiding

the construction of the Wangjaesan Revolutionary Site, I passed by Hoeryong on the train several times. Yet I could not spare the time to come here. I crossed the Tuman River by train in 2001 and 2002 when I was coming to and from the Russian Federation and its Far East region, respectively. Then, because of my tight schedule, I could not drop in on my mother's birthplace, even though it was within hailing distance.

My mother did not return to her birthplace at Hoeryong, either. After she came back to the homeland her comrades-in-arms tried to persuade her to visit Hoeryong on several occasions. Each time, however, she declined, saying that she was unable to pay a visit then and would find the time later because she had many pressing issues to deal with in assisting General Kim Il Sung. So she delayed her visit and ultimately failed to come here.

Her birthplace at Hoeryong is a historic site that brings back deep memories of my mother.

She was born and spent her childhood in a poor family. Her family was so destitute that they lived in a small room attached to someone else's house, as you can see. Few people today would believe that a great revolutionary was born in such a house.

My mother's was a patriotic and revolutionary family that, in the years of national distress, fought the Japanese aggressors for the good of their country and people. As she was born and grew up in such a family, my mother at a young age harboured a bitter hatred for the Japanese imperialists, the enemy who were imposing every manner of misfortune and suffering on our people. So she was resolute in her decision to take part in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle led by Comrade Kim Il Sung, and earned a worldwide reputation as a

woman general of the guerrilla army.

The marker recording my mother's revolutionary activities is inscribed with the words to the effect that she was born in this house on December 24, 1917 and nurtured a great patriotic aim while experiencing the sorrow of a stateless nation and a wretched life.

Having lived in a grass hut by the Phalul Stream, her family moved to this house two years before her birth. They built one more room, attached to the single-room dwelling. It is said that they were on good terms with the villagers. At the age of 5 she and her parents left this house for north Jiandao. They probably felt they were forced to cross the Tuman River since her father, who was involved in the independence movement, was subjected to severe persecution by the Japanese police and they were deprived of even their small plot of rented land.

The trees around the education yard at the house are, I think, firs.

You say that it will be memorable for me to pose for a photograph in front of my mother's old home. I agree with you.

My mother's old home is a historic place bearing traces of her great life. In Hoeryong they should properly maintain the house and conduct effective education by means of it.

The curator is worried that I may catch flu in this cold weather. I am all right.

It is a good thing that the Museum of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's Revolutionary Activities was inaugurated on August 25, 1982, to mark the 65th anniversary of her birth.

The large Korean painting *New Spring of National Liberation* in room 1 at the museum is excellent. It is good that the Map Showing the Major Sites Related to the

Revolutionary Activities of the Anti-Japanese War Heroine Kim Jong Suk is made of nylon and is marked out to divide her revolutionary career into 13 stages. There is another map showing her activities in the Paektusan Secret Camp, Pyongyang and Chongjin. The researchers at the Institute of Geography under the State Academy of Sciences should be praised for producing the Map Showing the Major Sites Related to the Revolutionary Activities of the Anti-Japanese War Heroine Kim Jong Suk and sending it here to mark the 90th anniversary of her birth.

Room 2 exhibits materials concerning her birth and childhood in Hoeryong and the start of her revolutionary struggle in north Jiandao. Regarding her childhood, I have just been told about it at her old home. This is a mill she operated by hand at a landlord's house when she was living in Fuyandong.

Room 4 exhibits materials concerning her vanguard role in the fight to defend a guerrilla base and her first meeting with the leader at the Sandaowan guerrilla base. I have been told that she was delighted to meet the leader for the first time in Nengzhiying, Sandaowan, in March 1935, and that she made a firm resolve to fight on to the end with unshakeable trust in him.

Room 5 exhibits materials concerning her joining the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in her teens and taking up arms to act as a bodyguard for the leader. Her joining the KPRA was a historic milestone in her revolutionary career. By joining the KPRA, which had been formed and was commanded by the great leader, she realized her wish to become involved in the sacred war to liberate the country, and stood at his side in supporting his ideology and lines.

Room 6 exhibits materials concerning the great exploits

she performed when establishing a base on Mt Paektu. She fought in death-defying defence of the leader on a hill during the assault on Fusong county town. In recalling the battle, the leader said that the headquarters had been saved that day by my mother and other women soldiers who had waged a heroic battle to defend the hill.

The letters on the slogan-bearing trees protected by tubes in the education room where slogan-bearing trees are preserved seem to be fading. You say that of the 112 slogan-bearing trees discovered in Hoeryong, 18 are attributed to anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and 94, to members of revolutionary organizations; the number of slogan-bearing trees discovered in the city is huge.

Room 9 exhibits materials concerning my mother's activities in the Yonsa and Musan areas, true to the leader's noble intentions. This is a photograph of Mother Jang Chol Gu.

Room 10 exhibits materials concerning her exertions to protect the leader's health and safety during the small-unit actions. The picture of her taken with the leader, greeting the spring in a foreign land on March 1, 1941, is profoundly significant.

Room 13 exhibits materials concerning the exploits she performed for the cause of army building, particularly the photograph in which I, together with the leader and my mother, am attending the second-term graduation ceremony of the First Central Military Academy. My mother paid close concern to strengthening and developing our revolutionary armed forces, striving with her heart and soul to implement the leader's line of army building. The exploits she performed in the history of army building are truly great.

Room 14 exhibits materials concerning her guidance to the

sectors of the economy, culture, education and public health; notably, there is a picture of me with the leader and my mother in Kyongsong, taken in September 1947.

Room 16 displays the first uniforms which were prepared under her meticulous care and sent to the bereaved children at Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. She often visited the school to see the children there and took warm care of their studying and lives with maternal affection. She strove with all her heart to train the bereaved children of revolutionaries into genuine revolutionaries who were unfailingly loyal to the leader, into hardcore elements who would carry forward the bloodline of our revolution.

Room 17 exhibits materials showing how faithfully she supported the leader to the last moment of her life. It also displays photographs I sent on the occasion of her 80th birthday. From her early years when she embarked on the road of revolution, to the last moment of her life, my mother worked with devotion for the leader, for national liberation and the victory of the revolution, and for the people's well-being.

You say that about 200 000 people visit the Museum of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's Revolutionary Activities every year. This is quite a large number of visitors.

Today, in looking round the museum, I have seen a great deal of data and relics relating to her revolutionary activities. I have seen the picture album for the museum before.

The exhibits in the museum are excellent, but the building itself is not so good. The building is too big and its floor height too great. It looks more like a house of culture than a museum. The hall of the museum is so high that my neck aches when I look up at the ceiling. The rooms in the museum have a lot of windows. It is hard to maintain a normal

temperature in a building with rooms that have a high ceiling and a lot of windows—all the more so in such a cold region as Hoeryong. You say that you have installed 15 air-conditioners, but maintaining the museum's indoor temperature will be difficult because of all the windows. I think that not enough attention was paid to the matter of heating at the time when the museum was being built.

This museum was not designed well. Compared with the small size of Hoeryong, it is too big and not well laid out. It is not suitable in several aspects. The design of the museum must have been modelled on a foreign one. To an architect, the defects in the design of this museum are obvious. You say that originally, the Hoeryong Revolutionary Museum was built on a small scale beside the statue of my mother and it was rebuilt on a bigger scale in view of her great exploits and the people's earnest wish. At that time it was considered right to build a revolutionary museum on a large scale. But if this museum had been smaller, it would have been possible to build a new school.

In the future, designing and planning should be done well when building a revolutionary museum. A museum does not need a lot of windows. There are no windows in the International Friendship Exhibition House. If a museum has a lot of windows, it will be hard to maintain the indoor temperature and the historical remains and relics may be harmed by the sunlight.

When constructing a museum you should not import expensive materials or design it as a large building for no good reason. There are many instances of people vying with one another to build and furnish museums or rooms for education by means of revolutionary relics by purchasing materials from abroad; this practice must no longer be allowed.

If a big museum is built for no justifiable reason, a lot of materials will be wasted. It seems to me that large amounts of materials and funds were expended in erecting this museum.

As for such academic issues as displaying data and arranging relics in a museum, you must follow the directives from the Party History Institute of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Today I have pointed to the large size of this museum and the many windows, but you should not try to remodel it and instead leave it as it is. It will do to take these matters into account in the future when you are building a museum.

I am afraid that you, the head of the education section at the museum, must be feeling cold as you are wearing *chima* and *jogori*. The visitors are dressed in padded clothes, so they are all right. But you may get cold, dressed as you are and standing all day long to give a lecture. The museum director is probably not so cold, as she is wearing an overcoat. But I think that in this region you should wear padded clothes rather than such an overcoat. A few years back, I had sets of padded clothes and fur boots sent to the lecturers at the revolutionary battle sites in Ryanggang Province. They were all delighted. I will have padded clothes sent to you all, too.

In Hoeryong the Museum of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's Revolutionary Activities needs to be renovated and effective education conducted through it. Large numbers of people visit the museum, and you should give them a good understanding of our Party's revolutionary traditions, and the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters' ennobling spirit of defending the leader to the death and their indomitable revolutionary spirit.

The generations change with the passage of time, but the cause of our revolution, which started its advance on Mt Paektu, is yet to be accomplished. Now, as we struggle to

build a thriving socialist country under the unfurled banner of Songun, we are in acute confrontation with the imperialists. The more complex the situation grows and the more gigantic the revolutionary task facing us, the more important education in our revolutionary traditions becomes. Party organizations and working people's organizations at all levels should intensify more than ever before, education in our revolutionary traditions among Party members, working people, young people and children.

The staff of the museum have pledged to be faithful to the leader like my mother Kim Jong Suk; I believe in you. You should all work hard.